

H.C.R. No. 49

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Train safety is a vital issue that affects all Texans, and promoting awareness of correct safety procedures around railroads can potentially save many lives; and

WHEREAS, The Texas Department of Insurance reports that a train hits someone in the United States every 115 minutes, often with fatal results, and the nonprofit Operation Lifesaver calculates that an average of nearly 1,200 Americans are killed or injured each year on highway-rail grade crossings; according to the Federal Railroad Administration, in 2015, Texas led the nation in highway-rail grade collisions with 224 such incidents and suffered 42 pedestrian rail trespass injuries and 27 pedestrian rail trespass fatalities, the second most of any state; and

WHEREAS, An average train consisting of 100 cars can weigh 12 million pounds and can take up to one mile to halt after first applying its brakes; because the average weight ratio of a train to a car is 4,000 to 1, collisions between the two usually result in tragedy for motor vehicle drivers, and a motorist is 20 times more likely to die in a train/vehicle collision than in a collision with another vehicle; and

WHEREAS, It is important to always use caution near railroad crossings, including slowing down, looking both ways, yielding to flashing lights and other signals, and keeping a safe distance from the railroad when stopped; train safety is equally important for pedestrians, and the only safe and legal place to cross railroad tracks is at a designated pedestrian or roadway crossing; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that motorists and pedestrians throughout the Lone Star State better understand the dangers that exist around railroads and the necessity of following proper train safety practices; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby designate July as Train Safety Awareness Month; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That in accordance with the provisions of Section 391.004(d), Government Code, this designation remain in effect until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally passed by the legislature.

Anderson of McLennan

Adopted by the House on May 9, 2017: Yeas 139, Nays 6, 2 present, not voting; adopted by the Senate on May 24, 2017: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 15, 2017.

H.C.R. No. 50

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 21.004(a), Government Code, provides: "At a convenient time at the commencement of each regular session of the legislature, the chief justice of the supreme court shall deliver a written or oral state of the judiciary message evaluating the accessibility of the courts to the citizens of the state and the future directions and needs of the courts of the state."; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the 85th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, That the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Texas meet in Joint Session in the Hall of the House of Representatives for that purpose on Wednesday, February 1, 2017, at 11:00 a.m.; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Honorable Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas, be, and is hereby, invited to address the Regular Session of the 85th Legislature in Joint Session at that time.

Smithee

Adopted by the House on January 24, 2017: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting;
adopted by the Senate on January 25, 2017: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Filed without signature.

Filed with the Secretary of State, February 6, 2017.

H.C.R. No. 53**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Texas game wardens devote themselves to the protection of the state's natural resources, and since 1895, 18 of these dedicated public servants have tragically lost their lives while fulfilling their important duties; and

WHEREAS, Game wardens, as certified peace officers, are responsible for preserving the peace and enforcing the game, fish, and water safety laws of Texas, which include, but are not limited to, apprehending poachers and other individuals who ignore wildlife law; many of the criminals that game wardens encounter have also ventured into other illegal activities, such as theft or the drug trade, and because game wardens are often patrolling areas with hunters, loaded guns are a constant in their work; the myriad challenges of the job may put them in harm's way at any time; and

WHEREAS, To honor those who died in the line of duty, the Texas Game Warden Association erected the Game Warden Memorial at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens; the monument, a bronze, life-sized statue of a warden, is dedicated to the memory of Joe Williams, Harry Raymond, Dawson Richard Murchison, R. M. Wynne, Gus Engeling, Claude Keller, J. D. Murphree, Joe Evans, Lloyd Gustin, Ronnie Germany, James Daughtrey, Barry Decker, Bruce Hill, Michael Pauling, Wes Wagstaff, Justin Hurst, Teyran "Ty" Patterson, and George Harold Whatley Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Many Texans are unaware of the sacrifices made by game wardens; the relocation of the monument to the State Capitol, however, would help the public gain a greater understanding of the vital mission of Texas game wardens and of the extraordinary commitment they make to upholding the laws of our state and protecting its natural resources; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby authorize the State Preservation Board, subject to state law and rules of the board, to approve the relocation of the Texas Game Warden Memorial to the State Capitol Complex, at a site outside of the historic Capitol grounds; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the board consider a site south of the Sam Houston Building for the location of the memorial; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward an official copy of this resolution to the executive director of the State Preservation Board and to the chair and president of the Texas Game Warden Association.

Gooden

Adopted by the House on April 20, 2017: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting;
adopted by the Senate on May 11, 2017: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved May 23, 2017.